Amatus, which he subsequently assumed, was a translation of Habib, the original Hebrew name of the family): graduated at Salamanca: emigrated to Italy, where he was in attendance on the Pope and lectured at Ferrara: and ultimately sought refuge from the rigours of the Inquisition in Salonica, where he died in 1568. Among his pupils was Giovanni Battista Canano, who during one of his lectures received the first impetus for his discovery of the importance of the valves in connexion with the circulation of the blood. His published works were numerous: but most important were the famous *Centuriae,* which, issued from 1551 onwards, had passed through a dozen editions, in five countries, by the beginning of the following century. Even to-day, the collection is regarded as a medical classic and one of the most valuable sources of medical practice of the sixteenth century.[1]

Rodrigo de Castro similarly, a native of Lisbon, sought religious freedom in northern Europe, settling ultimately in Hamburg. Here he distinguished himself by his self-sacrificing devotion in the plague of 1594, and for his outstanding services to the city in subsequent years. He did not lack contemporary recognition, being summoned to attend on the King of Denmark, the Archbishop of Bremen, the Count of Holstein, and other persons of eminence in the region. But he is best remembered for his *De universa mulierum morborum medicina* (1603), which is generally regarded as having laid the

foundations of gynaecology as we know it today. Castro is also one of the fathers of medical jurisprudence and wrote one of the first books on the subject.

[1] Amatus Lusitanus was no connexion of Zacutus Lusitanus of Amsterdam, another important Jewish figure in medical history of the period, who was a descendant of the astronomer Abraham Zacuto, it has, however, been conjectured that he was related to Elijah Montalto, yet another very prolific Jewish medical writer, physician to Catherine de' Medici, Queen of France.